

**KANSAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO  
THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**January 20, 2017**

The Kansas Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights convened via teleconference on Friday January 20, 2017 to discuss completion of the voting rights study begun by the previous Advisory Committee, and to discuss other topics of civil rights concern in the state for future Committee study.

This meeting was recorded and open to the public from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM CST.

**Committee members present:**

- Edwards, Mildred (Chair)
- Ng, Jennifer
- Lambert, Kristy
- Nolan, Phyllis
- Brien, Russell
- Gieber, Steven

**Committee Members Absent:**

- Dodd, Mark
- Holt, Ronald
- Perucca, Kirk (Vice Chair)
- Unoke, Ewa
- Hodgesmith, Martha
- Vega, Gabriela

**USCCR staff present:**

- Wojnaroski, Melissa (DFO)

**Members of the public present:** None identified

**Meeting Notes/Decisions Made**

- I. Welcome and Roll Call
  - a. The Chair provided the welcome and took roll call of members present. A quorum was established (minimum 5 members).
- II. Approval of Minutes: December 12, 2016
  - a. Phyllis Nolan moved to approve the Committee meeting minutes from December 12, 2016
  - b. Jennifer Ng seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.
- III. Review of the Committee's Draft Report: Civil Rights and the Kansas Secure and Fair Elections Act
  - a. The Committee reviewed a revised draft report, including the most recently drafted section C: Civil Rights and Disparate Impact (see attached)

- b. Two final sections remain outstanding and will be provided for review at the next Committee meeting:
  - i. Voter Fraud
  - ii. Findings and Recommendations

#### IV. Project concepts

- a. Two project concepts were submitted for Committee review (see Edwards Concept and Nolan Concept, attached)
- b. Both Concepts relate to civil rights and educational opportunity, including educational funding allocations.
- c. The Committee would like to consider the following in its study of the topic:
  - i. A study of the educational funding structure in KS and whether or not there may be disparate impact on protected populations
  - ii. The project should include consideration of:
    - 1. rural/urban differences
    - 2. the link between economic status and race as they relate to educational outcomes
    - 3. How has the state education budget changed over the past several years?
    - 4. Where budgets have been cut, where has the money been cut from?
  - iii. Jennifer Ng will merge the two project concepts into one, for further discussion at the next Committee meeting.

#### V. Public Comment

- a. At the conclusion of the meeting, public lines were opened for discussion. No public comment was received.

#### VI. Future Plans and Actions

- a. USCCR staff will poll Committee members to determine availability for the next meeting

#### VII. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned: 2:47 p.m.